

C O N F I D E N T I A L11th January, 1960.COCOM Document No. 3839B---COORDINATING COMMITTEEMEMORANDUM BY THE BELGIAN DELEGATIONTHE I.C./D.V. PROCEDURE

Since COCOM Document No. 3814 of the 3rd December, 1959 may lead to confusion as regards the application of the I.C./D.V. in Belgium, the Belgian Delegation wish to explain that the quantities and values indicated on the certificates must correspond to the normal needs of a Belgian exporter during that period. This does not mean that unused certificates are no longer valid after the expiry of this period. The aim of the O.C.C.L. is to prevent firms who are open to suspicion from obtaining import certificates for quantities beyond their needs since this might, in some cases, help in the diversion of goods.

The Office Central des Contingents et Licences evaluates this maximum value or quantity on the basis of previous imports made by reliable firms or on the justification brought forward in support of applications for certificates.

It results from the foregoing that a certificate issued for a quantity or value of goods representing six months' normal consumption may be used by the Belgian importer to obtain supplies before the expiry of this period. If the firm concerned wished to obtain a new document, they would be obliged to supply all the elements needed by the O.C.C.L. in judging such an application.

On the other hand, since there is no limit to the validity of certificates, they may be used for a period longer than six months, if the total amount specified thereon has not been imported.

The foregoing particulars should not lead to the conclusion that certificates issued by the O.C.C.L. can be used regardless of any time limit. While no specific limit is fixed when the said documents are issued, the O.C.C.L. has the right to cancel them, when necessary, at the time a new application is made or if, after a period left to their own discretion, they see, from import statistics or investigations carried out by the control authorities for instance, that this document has not been used.

Moreover, import certificates must be handed to the competent authorities by the foreign supplier within three months of the date of issuance.

Failing this, both ordinary and global certificates would lose their validity.

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